

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02986 311155Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 MCT-01 INR-10 CIAE-00 /028 W
-----020671 311337Z /46

R 311045Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8131
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPT FOR A/SY/DASS, A/SY/OPS/FO; LONDON, PARIS FOR RSO;
NAIROBI FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJ: MELOY/WARING/MOGHRABI ASSASSINATIONS

REF: BEIRUT 2900 (NOTAL)

1. THE ARTICLE QUOTED BELOW APPEARED IN AL MANAR, AN ARABIC
JOURNAL PUBLISHED IN LONDON BY VERITAS NEWSPAPERS LIMITED,
27 MAY 1978.

2. TITLE: LEADER OF ORLY OPERATION, MAHMOUD AWADAH, IS THE
ONE WHO ASSASSINATED U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BEIRUT.

"PALESTINIAN SOURCES SAID THAT MAHMOUD AWADAH, WHO WAS
RESPONSIBLE FOR ORLY AIRPORT GROUP, IS SAME PERSON WHO LED
THE GROUP THAT HAD ASSASSINATED AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO BEIRUT
FRANCIS MELOY DURING SUMMER OF 1976.

SAME SOURCES ADDED THAT AWADAH AND HIS TWO OTHER
COMPANIONS, ARE MEMBERS IN 'SONS OF SOUTH ORGANIZATION'
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WHICH IS AN AFFILIATION OF 'SOCIALIST ACTION PARTY', A
LEBANESE WING OF PFLP.

AIMS OF OPERATION ARE LIMITED TO TWO POINTS:

1) FRENCH-ISRAELI: THEY WANTED TO MAKE FRANCE
UNDERSTAND THAT IT CANNOT, THROUGH ITS FORCES IN

LEBANON, PLAY A COLONIAL ROLE. THIS WAS OBVIOUS IN THE STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER THE OPERATION.

2) INTERNAL: THAT THE PFLP WANTS TO POLARIZE HADDAD'S LINE. FIRST RESULTS OF THIS OPERATION ARE INCLUDED IN MESSAGES WHICH FRENCH OFFICIALS SENT TO BOTH DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD. SADDAM HUSSEIN OF IRAQI BOARD OF REVOLUTION COMMAND, HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM FRENCH PM RAYMOND BARRE, IN WHICH HE EXPLAINED THE FRENCH ROLE. IT IS CONFINED IN IMPLEMENTING UN RESOLUTION 425 WITHIN THE UNIFIL. THIS FRENCH MESSAGE INCLUDED THAT FRANCE WANTED TO KEEP GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL ARAB PARTIES, AND THAT IT IS EAGER THAT ITS MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON WOULD NOT INFLUENCE SUCH RELATIONS. HEAD OF MIDEAST DESK AT FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY, ALSO MET WITH SYRIAN DEPUTY PM AND FM KHADDAM, AND CONVEYED A SIMILAR MESSAGE FROM FRENCH OFFICIALS".

3. A SUMMARY OF THIS ARTICLE WAS CARRIED ON BBC OVERSEAS SERVICE 5/31/78.

DECONTROL 12/31/78.
LANE

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Message Attributes

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